

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please add the following section heading at line 3 on page 1:

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Please add the following section heading at line 4 on page 1:

**1. Field of the Invention**

Please add the following section heading before the second paragraph on page 1:

**2. Description of the Prior Art**

Please add the following section heading before the fourth paragraph starting on line 21 on page 4:

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Please add the following section heading before the second paragraph on page 11:

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 9 on page 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 5 represents a sequence alignment of the QDE-1 protein (SEQ ID No. 2) with other polypeptides from SwissProtein sequence database: ORF from Z488334 (eleg1) C.

*elegans*, ORF from Z98533 (pom) *S. pombe*, ORF from AF080120 (araB) *A. thaliana* and RNA-dependent RNA polymerase from Y104403 (RdRP) tomato. Identical residues are pointed out in black, whereas the conservative replacements are showed in gray.